Fourth Meeting with David, January 18, 1986

Met with David for an hour. Said in response to my question that he thinks Antoine Guerini was involved in plots against Castro. Thought Paul Mondoloni was the intermediary, who spent much time in the US. Knew Otto Skorzeny as a Nazi, did not want to say how he knew him but said he never worked together with him. Said people who picked up Sarti in Brownsville were from the city of Chicago as opposed to Chicago area. Indicated that he knew Tommy Davis. Refused to comment on him. Said Sarti moved several times on his way from Mexico City to US and wasn't in Mexico City very long. I returned to subject of a man with one eye. He said such a man shoots faster and more accurately than one with two eyes. Said he frequently went hunting with Sarti who always shot better than he. I showed him an aerial photo of Dealey Plaza and asked him to point out where Sarti shot from. He repeated that Sarti fired from the front, that he was not in a building. Said Sarti wanted to be on the bridge but it was guarded so he had to move down towards the hill. Asked me to show him the buildings. He then began talking about the gunfire. Reconstructed the shooting as follows: Three gunmen, very definite on this point. Said it was a crossfire with three guns. Two behind, one in front. Of the two behind, one was high and one was low. Repeated this several times. Said you can't understand the wounds if you don't realize that one gun was low, "almost on the horizontal" as he said several times. Said if not, the wounds would have been impossible. First shot fired from behind and hit Kennedy in the back. Second shot fired from behind and hit "the other person in the car". Third shot fired from in front. Fourth shot fired from behind and missed "because the car was too far away". Said that two shots were almost simultaneous. Said the official investigation was faked. Said Kennedy was killed for revenge and money. Said CIA was incapable of killing Kennedy but did cover it up. Says he believes the gunmen went to Canada, that there were people in Canada who had the ability to fly them out of US. They had important contacts in Montreal. Refused to answer all other questions. Insisted that we must find Nicoli who was informed on plot. Refused to comment on whether Nicoli was involved in plot, but also refused to deny that he was. Said he first saw Sarti again two months after the assassination. Said few people knew that Sarti had shot the president. Insists that Sarti was assassinated, no reason for the Mexican police to kill Sarti. Believes the killing was deliberate and ordered by the CIA. Thinks that it was he, David, they wanted to kill in Mexico. Knows there was a contract on him at the same time. Said that Antoine Guerini was very careful about who he hired for the affair. Refused to say who the other two gunmen were or to give me their nationalities. In speaking of Sarti, David said that Sarti was not a friend of his, that they worked together but he would not have chosen Sarti as a friend. Seemed quite bitter about Sarti. Said that Sarti had done something to him. When I asked what he replied that there were only two reasons why you killed someone, either to save yourself or to save a friend. But you only killed to save a friend once or twice, but no more. Evidently he was forced to jeopardize himself several times to get Sarti out of jams. I said that Sarti killed for money. David said that was another matter which he would explain to me later. I repeated that Sarti had killed for money. He said, no, that's someting entirely different and he would explain it to me later on.

Name	Occupation	Comments
Tony Summers	Beloved celebrity	Said Cubela was probably in Madrid and would try to get his address. Said Cubela was originally approached by a Tepadino in Mexico in 1961. Carlos Tepadino first recruited Cubela for CIA. Cubela said he was never paid by CIA and did not consider himself a CIA agent. Suggested I contact Gordon Winslow, Miami, Victor Espinosa Hernandez, London of Lake Ponchartrain arsenal fame.
Germain Bezert	Former police commissioner Marseille	Has been helping me with my work since June. Says he had been skeptical but has made enquiries, done some reading and spoken with old colleagues and now believes there was a contract and that David and Sarti were involved. Was unable to find a name on Frenchy. No records of Meunier. Asked who might have been the third assassin. Replied that it was probably Michel Nicoli. Said Nicoli was killer, under death sentence for murder, ruthless, skilled killer. Close to Guerini, David and Sarti, and if they were involved and there was a third, it might well have been Nicoli. This squared with David's assertion that Nicoli knew all about the affair, and his refusal to comment on whether Nicoli was involved. (David still considers Nicoli to be a friend as Nicoli never testified against him.) Bezert obtained Sarti's fingerprints for me, warned me not to try to talk to Robert Sagna an ex-Guerini killer. Tole me that I was onto "a very explosive affair". Said there are still two Guerini brothers alive in Corsica.
Roger Ardhouin	Correspondant, radio	Found three elderly Marseille cops who recognized Frency as Corsican killer and drug trafficker. Said he knew a DEA agent in Marseille

Ardhouin		in early 60s who was supposedly a CIA agent as well, charged with recruiting gangsters for the CIA, named Paul Higdon. Went to Belgium and Morocco, then to US. Higdon recruited from Guerini mob for CIA. Also mentioned Kevin Gallagher also DEA-CIA. Suggested I see lawyer, Marc Greco, once Nicoli's lawyer.
Pierre Domenech	Editor, Le Meridional	Went through archives in drugs, French Connection, David, Sarti, Nicoli, etc. Found Nicoli arrested Brazil 7 Oct 1972, condemned to death in France in 1964. David arrested 21 Octo 1972 in Brazil. Sent to US in 72 in same plane. Apr 16, 1972 La Marseillaise newspaper notes that William Perrin was arrested in Lyons for drug trafficking, part of Ricord organization. Had been arrested in 1965 with Franccois Chaippe, close assocciate of David. Sarti used Italian passport under name of Roberto Sconamiglio. France Soir 11-16-72 says Sarti's death was setup, assassination. L'Aurore 3-12-72 says a Mr Nick was drug connection of Sarti's in New York, named Nicolas Giannatasio. Antoine Guerini shot 13 times in June 67. Domenech unable to get me photo of Nicoli.
Louis Rancurel	Photo editor, Le Provincal	Unable to obtain photo of Nicoli
Germain Bezert	ex-cop Marseille	Unable to obtain Nicoli's prints, said file has been sealed.
Alain DelCroix	journalist	Recognized Frenchy, thought he might be ex-French Connection, Charles Signoli, restaurant owner, Marseille. Went to restaurant, unable to meet Signoli but spoke to two people who knew him and claim French is not he.
Marc Greco	lawyer	Had been Nicoli's lawyer. Said Nicoli was condemned to death twice in absentia. Said Nicoli was a known thug not major killer. Other Guerini killers of the period: Rene Mondoloni adopted son of Meme Guerini, Pierre

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Greco	lawyer	Colombani, Jeannot le Grecque (nick-name), thought he recognized Nick as part of the Combinati affair, cigarette smuggling affair of fofties. Said he knew Paul Higdon as Mr Paul who passed himself off as Belgian an used Belgian passport. Said Higdon's first big success in Marseille was the Donetti affair, arrested Albertini. Said Marseille killers moved freely to Argentina until they lost their freedom of movement there in 1963. Suggested Frenchy was Henri Rossi. Said I should see ex cop Chaminadas, busted French Connection Promised to let me see Nicoli's file.

Several people suggested the A.S. on the CIA-ZR-Rifle program cable might have been Ange Simonpieri, recruited by Pierre Lemarchand as underworld recruiter for SEDEC in 1960. Was involved in drug trade between Marseille and New York perhaps via Frankfurt. Was with SAC in Algeria under orders of Lemarchand. Protected from conviction until 1971.

Roger Ardhouin	journalist	Gave me list of Guerini killers of early 60s: Dominique Poli, Henri Rossi, Pascale Mariani, Jerome Sarrola, Michel Santarelli, all arrested with Meme Guerini 4 Aug 1967. Said Sarti and Nicoli were not members of Antoine's clan. Squares with Bezert's idea that he went outside for his killers in this affair. List of killers continues: Matthieu Trivico, Rene Mondoloni, Etienne Carara. Said David was available to Antoine but not one of his stable. Armand-Sessa. Said he will show pix of Frenchy to others.
Alex Panzani	journalist	Promised he will speak to retired cop named Goncalves who handled Ange Simonpieri. Will try to pin down Sarti, David and Nicoli's movements end of 63 from Chamandas, cop who broke up French Connection. Says Chamandas may know where Nicoli is now. Will try to determine if there was such a contract. Said Antoine did serve as intermediary for people looking for killers, then withdrew. On these cases he kept info to himself.

Commissaire Barbazin	narcotics cop Marseille	Had recognized Frenchy but unable to name him. Is certain he has seen him in his career. Says name is in the back of his head. Said others to whom he has shown photo agree he was Corsican killer and trafficker.
Pierre Lemarchand	lawyer, organizer of SAC, Gaullist deputy	Denied everything. Denied recruiting Simonpieri and knowing David. Said he had no relation to SAC,was never in Algeria. Said CIA never recruited SAC in Algeria. Said CIA did reccruit members of Guerini gang in Marseille through DEA office there. Promised to get me infor on Sarti and Nicoli. Thought he may have known QJ/WIN in Algeria. Man named "Georges" whose real name he promised to get me. 30 years old in 62, former OAS went over to Barbouzes. Arrested for smuggling in central France in 60s. Wrote some newspaper articles. Said Guerinis had unwritten agreement with police which was ruptured when Antoine helped David and Sarti. Has never understood why.
Alain Jaubert	journalist	Wrote Dossier D Comme Drogue. Says Lemarchand did recruit Simonpieri who also worked for CIA. Says CIA did recruit in Marseille. Says Antoine's helping Sarti and David in 66 remains a major mystery.

Fifth Meething with David, January 25th.

Refused to answer any questions. Said could not reveal name of dead gunman because he still has family. Said he could prove identity of other man in Congo but refused. Said there were documents, statements made under torture which proved he was telling truth. Assume he was referring again to Sarti's Argentine statement. Refused for the dozenth time to tell me his brother's name or what hospital he is in. Told him Jim and Dan Alcorn were coming to see him. Urged him to cooperate with them. Asked if he could name others who knew about the assassination who had been killed to prevent them talking. Said I knew better than he who they were; people in the US. Asked for examples, he refused but repeated they were killed in US.

Colonel Tavernier	former merc officer, Congo	Remembers Nick from Congo. Admits he worked for CIA in Congo and in Belgium for fifteen years until "purged" during Watergate, 60-75. Never heard of WIN/ROGUE operation. said he worked with Devlin and would have killed Lumumba himself if asked to. Said Belgian officer killed Lumumba. Did not believe Devlin tried to kill Lumumba or brought anyone to Congo to do it. Said CIA had plenty of people in Congo who would gladly have done it Gave me some articles to read.
Joseph Smal	former Congo merc	Said WIN and ROGUE probably stayed at either Hotel Memling or Regina in Leopoldville. Knew Devlin. Said Devlin went to Thailand after he left Congo and got involved in drug trade there. Devlin worked with an American gagnster named Peters in Singapore. Thought Peters supplied Devlin with drug money for CIA. Said Devlin hired French gangster Francis Bodenin in 1967 to kidnap Tschombe. Said Tschombe was killed by being injected with two substances, one of which provoked coma, second caused massive heart attack. Said substances were prepared by CIA. Said Gaptain Gat of Belgian Army killed Lumumba. Suggested Col. Marliere formerly of Belgian Army intelligence in Congo might have known Win and Rogue. Said CIA agent Reiner was active in Elizabethville at time of Lumumba's death

Meeting with Edmond Meunier, Liege, Belgium.

Went to Meunier's apartment in Seraing. Spoke with him for an hour. Looks very much like Nick photos - eyes, build, profile, face shape, etc. Hairline is different; Munier's hair, though thin, is not so sparse as Nick's in 1963. Meunier showed me photos of himself taken in Rhodesia in 1963. Looked younger than Nick. Has bright blue eyes, 53 years old. Showed him Nick's photo. No discernable reaction. Said he had never been to North America. Said he was absent from Africa between February 63 and Sept 64. Said he was unaware of CIA recruiting among ground troops in Congo, though pilots were recruited. Showed me photo of the only American ground merc he ever knew, who was killed in Congo. Gave me phone number of an officer who was present at Lumumba's death.

Despite striking resemblance, reluctantly concluded Meunier was not Nick.

Walter de Bock	journalist, Brussels	Working on story involving Paul Higdon who was involved in drug scandal in Belgium in late 70s. Transferred before he was indicted. Worked with two other DEA agents, James Guy and Frank Eaton. Told me to talk to Francois Raes, former narc who blew open the story.
Francois Raes	former narc	Said Higdon was also CIA agent, would have been indicted if not pulled out of Belgium. Said Higdon was in Marseille, now in Bonn. Said Higdon recruited at least one Belgian drug smuggler for CIA, Donald Maenhout, later killed. Said occassionally a man came from Paris, Higdon's boss, to meet secretly with Higdon. Thought his name was Vic Maria...something. Suggested I speak with Lucien Thomas, chemist and smuggler of French Connection. Said former RAF pilot, Pierre Dewil worked with Higdon. Said Frankfurt was central to cocaine traffick, big DEA office. Also Hamburg. Said Hamburg ITT office used for antidrug communications.
Mme Bonsang	widow merc recruiter	Gave me file on Tschombe's death, promised to send me more. Said Lockheed reps rifled her husband's office and burglarized their home after his death.
Charles Gardien	former merc	Close to Denard whose righthand man he was. Promised to put me in touch with Denard with whom he speaks regularly. Gardien disbursed funds for for 67 Tschombe coup. Said he never knew where money came from.

Archives La Libre Belgique newspaper: Found articles on Sarti. Sarti killed cop night of 24-25 February 1966 in company of Jacques Zanotto and Marius Salvati. Salvati murdered one month before Sarti. Sarti Arrested May 21 1968, called Al Capone of Belgium, biggest manhunt in Belgian history. 25 May 1968 said police also looking for Francois Chiappe, David and one Manuel Gonzales. Sarti wanted for 20 armed assaults in Belgium. Escaped December 1970. Sarti killed 27-28 April 1972 by Mexican police. Wife's name Liliane Rous-Vaillet. Sarti aliases: Jean-Adolphe Vigne, Antonio Francisci-Serra, Roberto Sconomiglio. Traveled to US under name Lucien Sanchez. Had office in Empire State Bldg. French Commissaire Bellemin-Noel in charge of Sarti case. Sarti had 9 year old daughter in 1972, Veronique.

Colonel Marliere	former intelligence office, Congo	Did not know Win/Rogue but suggested I talk to Col Lahaye, G-2 office in charge of movement of foreigners in Leopoldville, after 1960.

Sixth Meeting with Daivd

Met with David in company of Jim and Dan Alcorn. Refused to answer questions, refused to give information before he was released. Very wary and uncooperative. Dan offered him a proposition. Could send message to high authorities in US. Message must prove his knowledge and willingness to cooperate. David asked to think about it. Said we should come back in two days. Said anything he said about assassination might be used to have him committed. French lawyers had evidently advised him not to cooperate with us.

Claude Picquant	journalist	Studied career of Lou Conein, says Conein born in France, still French citizen, worked for SEDEC. Said ther is still contract on Conein in Franc who gave Sedec secrets to CIA. Conei principal Corsican contact was MatthieuFrancescini, brothel owner in Saigon. Said he has a copy of Sarti's Argentine statement somewher in his files. Will send it to me. Recognized Frenchy as Corsican involved in theft of Aga Khan's jewels. Said Higdon testified at Francisci Time-Life libel trial in Paris, 1971

Seventh Meeting with David

Met in morning with David. His Marseille lawyer had seen him the day previously and told him not to cooperate with us as he would soon be getting out of jail. David offered counter-proposal to Dan's. He will write down the essentials of what he knows about the assassination and give it to a Corsican lawyer of his acquaintance. Will give names, dates, means of entry and escape, etc. The lawyer will retain this information and contact Jim to confirm that it is what David promised. In return Jim and Dan will appeal on David's behalf to the Court of the Hague. If they are instrumental in getting David out, they get the information. If David gets out otherwise, he will sell the information for money to keep him and his family. If he dies, the lawyer will sell off the information and give the money to his family. Said he will write down what he knows about the Congo separately and give it also to the lawyer. Refused to answer any further questions. I met alone with David in early afternoon. Said he would soon be getting out, or if not would be put under psychiatric observation for a few months and then released. If neither, he said he would kill himself this year. One way or the other he was getting out this year. Said all three gunmen were Corsican. I mentioned that Sarti was born in Marseille, he said Sarti's mother was Corsican, which made him a Corsican. Said all three gunmen had living relatives who would revenge them if he told,

and that they would trace the information back to him. Said only Sarti had an explosive bullet and only Sarti was paid in heroin. Would not explain the difference. Said find out who Sarti's contacts in US were and I will know who was involved. Jim and Dan joined us late afternoon and firmed up details of the agreement. David promised to write the information down within two weeks. Said we should be hearing from the Corsican lawyer shortly after. Said he often travels to US.

Philipe Madelin	journalist	Gave me many contacts in French police. Said I could get access to police records on Sarti, Nicoli and David. Gave me background on Marseille mafia. Also gave me many contacts among mafia lawyers, as well as numbers for Bellemin-Noel and Aime-Blanc. Very valuable contacts.
Lucien Thomas (Bedos)	former member of French Connection	Drug smuggler until 1971. Close associate of Nicoli and Andre Condemine. Said Nicoli arrived in Latin America in 64, worked out of Buenos Aires. Said Sarti did not get into drug traffic until 66. Said Orisini, who was murdered in Atlanta Penitentiary, was close to Nicoli. Said Ric ord is dead. Said both Sarti and Nic oli had important contacts in US. Said in 68 Sarti took 20 kilos of heroin to Montreal determined to sell them in New York or die in the attempt. Said Condemine had sold out to narcs and was murdered as a traitor. Suggested I speak to Rene Santamaria, Corsican drug distributor in US. Said Frenchy reminded him of Nicoli. Said Sarti was killer and crazy. Nicoli also killer. Said David was killer who would do anything for right price.
Roger Rozart	journalist Belgian newspaper	Promised to try to get Sarti's statement, info on Higdon.
Colonel Lahaye	former chief internal security, Congo	Mobutu's security chief after independence. Worked closely with Larry Devlin. Reluctant to discuss Lumumba but clearly knows a great deal. Said he must protect professional secrets.

Col Lahaye		Said Devlin had been parachuted into France during WWII. Devlin married to French woman. He had burned both hands in an accident. Said Leopoldville in 60-61 was chaotic, many plots going. Too early to tell whole story. Was aware of Devlin's plot to kill Lumumba. Said Devlin had asked him for his help in this plot. Lahay refused in order to protect lives of Europeans from retaliation. Said there was never any serious attempt to kill Lumumba by foreigners. Devli: however did bring "Marseille gangsters" to Leopoldville to kill him. Indicated that he deported at least one of these gangsters: sent him to the SEDEC in Brazzaville who sent him/them back to France. His office kept records on foreigners in Leopoldville. Said these records are still extant. Said SEDEC may still have records of deportation of Devlin's agent(s). Devlin's agents stayed in Hotel Regina. Said SEDEC Brazzaville was aware of Devlin's agents. Also Miss Parke, British consular official, was aware of them Gave him a copy of Church report and asked him to write a comment on it to me. Left me with distinct impression that he knows much more than is willing to say. Did not recognize Nick or Sarti, or did not appear to.
Rene Haquèn	Journalist, Brussels	Promised to discover Sarti's contact in US and statement from 68. Gave me name of judge in charge of Sarti': case and files.

Recommendations:

1. Find Michel Nicoli and interview him. David believes he is in Argentina. Might find him through the Department of Justice witness protection program, through other drug traffickers, through Sarti's or his own family, or through Lucien Thomas (Bedos) who travels to South America twice a year.

2. Follow up David's promise to write down what he knows, and get in touch with the lawyer. This will now be Sophie Bottai of Marseille.

3. Research Sarti's American contacts, especially in Chicago, New York and Montreal.

4. Go to INS headquarters in DC and check border crossings at Brownsville, Texas for Late October, and November, 1963. Looking for one, two or three Italians in a car with Italian passports. Sarti's alias around that time was Roberto Sconamiglio. He also frequently traveled to the US using the name Luciano. Since he did not leave with the same passport, there should still be a departure control card for him on file.

5. Get Sarti's 1968 Argentine statement.

6. Find and interview Miss Parke, formerly of British Embassy, Leopoldville, Congo about Win and Rogue.

7. Find and interview Bob Denard.

8. Compare Sarti's and David's fingerprints with those taken from the cardboard boxes in the Book Deposity, now in the Archives. Compare Nicoli's as soon as I get them.

9. Keep in touch with people who claim they can get a name for Frenchy.

10. Find Miss Parke (or Park) of the British Embassy, Congo, and interview her about Win and Rogue.

Notes:

In addition to the information which David gave us, some of which may be verifiable, the chief accomplishment of this trip was that he has written down the essentials of what he knows about the assassination. This information, apparently, includes the names of the gunmen, dates, routes of entry and escape, place names and other vital indications. This information is to be deposited (perhaps already has been deposited) with his lawyer. David has told me that, one way or the other, he will not spend another year in prison. If he is not freed,he has assured me, he will kill himself this year. Indeed, he says in his latest letter to me that had he known his fate years ago, he would have long since killed himself. So it seems that, one way or another, we will get the information this year. In the meantime there are a number of things we can and must do, some of which I have outlined in my recommendations.

I believe that David is telling us the truth for the most part, though he is by no means telling us all that he knows. It is conceivable to me that he was not involved in the actual assassination, but the nature of what he has said suggests that he was. Frankly, I think it likely that he will not survive for another year, unless he is freed. I accept the idea that Sarti was the man on the grassy knoll, and it strikes me as quite possible that Nicoli was another of the gunmen. The careers of the three men - David, Sarti and Nicoli - are parallel, their names almost always appear together, so that there seems to have been some sort of link among them. However, for the first time we have substantial reason to think we know the ideantity of one of the gunmen, and we have been given the name of another man who apparently knows a great deal about the assassination, namely, Nicoli. We must now make a major effort to locate and interview Nicoli, I believe. At the very least he can corroborate the essentials of what David has said, specifically, that there was a contract in Marseille in May of 1963, that David was solicited for it and that Sarti accepted it. With such corroboration we would have more than a line of enquiry; we would have a case. It would then remain to connect this case up with what we know about US intelligence and mafia operations of the era. The priority, then,is to find Nicoli at any cost.

Addenda, March 7, 1986

Since returning I have learned one or two things of interest:

From an investigator for the Senate Subcomittee on Investigations that Lucien Conein is in fact Corsican.

That Sarti's escape from prison in Argentina in 1970, shortly before he was to be extradited to Belgium, was engineered by Michel Nicoli. (see attached article)

That the Dulac, who was convicted for the Greenpeace boat bombing, and had been an adjutant of Bob Denard, is Corsican.

That in 1967 Bob Denard was sent by the SEDEC to Luanda to murder Jean Rene Souetre. (see attached deposition)

That the "Georges" to whom Lemarchand referred may have been Georges Ribeaud (or Riboud)

According to Jonathan Marshall, the CIA did quash the 1962 charges against

QJ/WIN in Europe, for smuggling.